



Patent
Attorney's Docket No. 032642-004

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8.7.02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

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Colin Leslie YOUNG

) Group Art Unit: 1616

Application No.: 09/762,585

) Examiner: J. D. Pak

Filed: February 9, 2001

) Confirmation No.: 5719

For: MOLLUSC REPELLANT

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AUG 01 2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Sir:

In complete response to the Official Action mailed July 2, 2002, Applicants hereby elect, albeit with traverse, Group I, Claims 55-95, drawn to a composition of a substantially insoluble metal oxalate and a method of repelling molluscs.

37 C.F.R. § 1.475(a) states that unity of invention exists where there is a technical relationship among the inventions involving one or more of the same special technical features. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 96 of Group II, though containing *soluble* oxalate and a *soluble* metal salt, explicitly recites that when these two components are combined, a *substantially insoluble metal oxalate* as an aqueous suspension results. The claims of Group I are drawn to compositions and methods of repelling molluscs using a *substantially insoluble metal oxalate*. Thus, the claims of both groups involve the same "special technical feature" as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.475(a). Applicants respectfully submit that because the claims of both groups possess the same special technical feature, rejoinder of the claims and examination of both groups are proper.

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If there are any questions concerning this Reply, or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

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